



Provider Supports Subcommittee

Agency Updates

April 12, 2023

DCYF Agency Updates & Follow-Up

DCYF Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) Update

Following up on the [ORESJ update](#) provided during the February 8 meeting, please see the below update from the DCYF Leadership Table:

- During their March 20 meeting, DCYF's Leadership Table unanimously voted to have ORESJ join the Leadership Table, effective as of March 27.
- Equity & Community Partnership Administrator Carol Byers will represent ORESJ at the Leadership Table.

DCYF Welcomes Interim Assistant Secretary for Licensing

DCYF recently announced the appointment of [Ruben Reeves](#) as Interim Assistant Secretary for Licensing. Reeves brings 26 years of experience with the agency and 20 years in Licensing with the State of Washington, leading his teams through several system improvements across all programs within the Licensing Division. Over the coming months, DCYF will launch a national recruiting effort to fill the Assistant Secretary for Licensing position.

Early Childhood Equity Grant | Timeline Update

DCYF originally stated that there would be three rounds of applications for the Early Childhood Equity Grant (Summer 2022, Winter 2023, Spring 2023), and each round of applications would have \$1.7 million available, for a total of \$5.1 million.

After carefully considering feedback from stakeholders and partners after the first round, we have decided to hold only one additional round of the grant this fiscal year instead of two. This decision was made to allow more time for engagement in the refinement process, ensure that the grant meets its intended goals, and honor meaningful involvement from providers, stakeholders, allies, and government partners.

The remaining \$3.4 million in funds for this period will be awarded during the second round of applications. We expect the second round of the Early Childhood Equity Grant to open in Spring 2023.

If you want to read more about the first round of the Early Childhood Equity Grant, the Fast Facts are available on our website here: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#).

Your input and feedback are greatly appreciated and will be used to inform future decisions and policies related to the Early Childhood Equity Grant.

Group Care Background Check Updates

DCYF is excited to announce that the Background Check Unit (BCU) has further streamlined the [Group Care background check process](#). There is a new [Background Check Form](#) that will need to be filled out when sending in the background request that is specific to group care providers. [Read more here.](#)

Community Based FRS Co-Design Project Town Hall | [Register here](#)

DCYF is hosting a town hall on **Tuesday, April 25, from 3 to 5 p.m.** During the meeting, DCYF Adolescent Program Co-Design Manager Lily Cory and Adolescent Prevention Program Manager Cole Ketcherside will provide information on the Community Based Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) Co-Design Project. You will also have opportunities to ask



questions. Please register below to attend this town hall. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov.

Dual Language Designation Now Available

The Early Achievers Dual Language Designation recognizes programs supporting multilingual children and families in dual language learning environments to meet their specific strengths and needs. To learn all about the dual language designation, visit the [Dual Language Learning webpage](#).

DCYF Rulemaking Update

Early Learning Child Care – Emergency exits and access to licensed space.

DCYF has completed rules to clarify:

- The agency's authority to access licensed space and the consequences for refusing access.
- The requirement for two emergency exits for each floor of licensed space in family home child cares and describe the specific criteria for each exit.
- Child care providers ensure nondiscrimination of LGBTQIA+ children enrolled in child care.
- Immunization requirements with chapter 246-105 WAC under which child care providers who enroll unimmunized children must notify the parents or guardians that children who are not immunized within 30 days of enrollment, will be excluded from care.

Specifically, DCYF created new WAC 110-300-0035 and amended WACs 10-300-0005, 110-300-0030, 110-300-0166, and 110-300-0210. The final rules were filed as [WSR 23-07-066](#) and will become permanent rules on Monday, April 10, 2023. [Read more here](#).

Join your colleagues for the Early Achievers Institute

Open to all Early Achievers participants in the state of Washington, including center-based and family child care educators and program leaders who provide services for children and youth from birth to school age, and their coaches.

The in-person event is on April 29, 2023, at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. The virtual event is May 1-2, 2023. [Register here](#).